



Regular Meeting of the Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters
City of University City
March 10, 2016

Members Present:

Garrie Burr, Brad Heinemann, Melcine Henderson, Felecia Hickman, Marian Reed, Barbara Romero, Barbara Santoro, Stephanie Schlaifer, Bwayne Smotherson, Winnie Sullivan, Nicole Thomas, Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo, Myra Vandersall, Kay Watts

Absent: Fred Fehr

Staff Liaison: Lynda Euell-Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by President Garrie Burr.

Minutes from February 11, 2016: Mr. Smotherson moved approval, Ms. Hickman seconded, approved unanimously with correction "\$10,000 donation has been made to U. City in Bloom for Olive beautification by a private U. City donor."

Citizen Comments: no citizen comments

Rain Man discussion: Sinan Alpasan, Director of Public Works/Parks attended the meeting in order to answer questions which had been submitted by Commissioners. 1) It is not determined who owns Rain Man and who has authority to commit all rights and title to Gateway Foundation. 2) There is no bill of sale for consideration of ownership. Costs of maintenance to City is a consideration; precedent of giving rights and title of public art to Gateway Foundation. (or other) for the cost of maintenance is problematic. 3) Gateway commits to not removing statue from Epstein Plaza, other than for repair and 4) to letting the City know if any aesthetic alterations are planned. 5) It is not known if the artist retains any residual claims. 6) It is not known if there are current agreements between City and Gateway Foundation.

Mr. Smotherson moved that we postpone any decision until there is an opinion on ownership of Rain Man from a VLAA attorney. Ms. Hickman seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Sullivan presented the February summary which was approved on a motion by Ms. Henderson and Ms. Vandersall. She provided a follow-up to the last meeting's report: A letter has been submitted to the City Manager, requesting additional allocations in the 2017 budget for Starlight Concerts, and that the A&L budget be broken out from the Recreation Division budget. The break-out is required especially for grant applications. No response has been received.

Staff Liaison Report: No report

Council Liaison Report: Information sent to the Commission in absence of Liaison: A temporary restraining order against Social House II was turned down; the UCPD is holding security meetings throughout the City and will provide free security audits. Contact Capt. Carol Jackson to schedule.

Committee Reports

- Community Visuals – Mr. Burr (chair) announced that students have picked up their checks. No studio visits will be scheduled this year due to the nature of the projects. We will be notified of dates to visit the construction sites. Posters and cards are ready for announcing sculpture reception. Digital archive beginnings are on the web.
- Finance – Ms. Sullivan (chair) announced that the narrative for the RAC grant has been submitted. The budget submission is awaiting answers from the City. March 29 is the final due date.
- Literary – Ms. Sullivan (chair) announced that there will be a festival in October, including a Friday night gala and two-day weekend. The Tradition of Excellence award will be presented on Friday, children's books 11-4 on Saturday, and an adult literary pub crawl is planned for Saturday evening. Ms. Sullivan would appreciate ideas from Commissioner as to location for children (indoor and able to be partitioned), outdoor, vendor space.
- Marketing – Ms. Vandersall (chair) reports that the committee continues reaching out on social media, highlighting nearby arts events. Starlight Concerts and Sculpture opening will provide photo ops, send photos and other ideas for the web page. "Like" us on Facebook in order to spread the word.
- Photo Show – No report
- Returning Artist – Ms. Watts reported that the week with Wiley Price was extremely successful and thanked Commissioners for their support.
- Starlight Concerts – Ms. Henderson announced that this year's plans are in good shape. Ms. Sullivan requested changes for RAC grant application.

Old Business: 1) "Modernizing Lower Level of City Hall" will be removed from our agenda until further notice from City. 2) Mr. Burr asked whether there is interest in working with the Children's Art tent, and will get additional information to Ms. Thomas. 3) Ms. Hickman and Ms. Toliver-Diallo will work on an ad hoc committee for creating a policies/procedures manual. Event chairs will submit information to the committee. 4) Several

people have suggested holding a trivia night fundraiser. Ms. Watts will investigate feasibility; please contact her if you will work on that. Mr. Smotherson will investigate the feasibility of holding a black-tie event.

New Business: No new business

Other Business: Commissioners introduced themselves as we have several relatively new Commissioners.

Mr. Burr thanked Ms. Henderson for her organization and leadership of the Commission.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.